



Budget Bingo Instructions

Welcome to Budget Bingo!

This is a fun game for the whole family that reinforces the terminology associated with budgeting. It can help you start a conversation with your kids about balancing needs and wants when creating a budget.

1. To get started, cut the word prompts into individual squares.
2. Turn them face down, almost like a deck of cards, and shuffle.
3. Give each player one of the Bingo cards (there are four per set).
4. Distribute 16 small items (like coins, beans, buttons, or chips) to each player. They will be used to mark each space on the Bingo card.
5. Instruct the players to cover the FREE space on the Bingo card.
6. They should then listen for the words being called out and cover the space with a marker (small item detailed above).
7. The first player to mark five space in a row (top to bottom, left to right or diagonal), should shout out “Bingo!”
8. The winner will read back the words and try to describe them to the group. Use the definitions page for suggested descriptions.
9. Celebrate the winner and start the game again.



Budget Bingo Word Prompts

Print and cut these word prompts. Randomly select them to call out for Bingo.

Clothing	Credit	Balance	Food
Net	Plan	Spending	Transportation
Saving	Insurance	Entertainment	Cash
Deficit	Utilities	Loan	Taxes
Monthly	Housing	Expenses	Gross
Giving	Debt	Margin	Income



be your best you.

B	U	D	G	E	T
B	I	N	G	O	
Spending	Income	Monthly	Taxes	Saving	
Net	Margin	Debt	Clothing	Gross	
Food	Insurance	FREE SPACE	Entertainment	Cash	
Deficit	Utilities	Credit	Housing	Balance	
Giving	Loan	Plan	Expenses	Transportation	



be your best you.

B	U	D	G	E	T
B	I	N	G	O	
Clothing	Credit	Giving	Balance	Food	
Net	Plan	Debt	Spending	Transportation	
Saving	Insurance	FREE SPACE	Entertainment	Cash	
Deficit	Utilities	Income	Loan	Taxes	
Monthly	Housing	Margin	Expenses	Gross	



be your best you.

B	U	D	G	E	T
B	I	N	G	O	
Spending	Income	Monthly	Deficit	Saving	
Utilities	Transportation	Food	Clothing	Gross	
Debt	Insurance	FREE SPACE	Expenses	Credit	
Taxes	Net	Cash	Giving	Balance	
Housing	Loan	Plan	Entertainment	Margin	



be your best you.

B	U	D	G	E	T
B	I	N	G	O	
Spending	Cash	Monthly	Taxes	Transportation	
Net	Margin	Debt	Plan	Giving	
Insurance	Food	FREE SPACE	Entertainment	Income	
Deficit	Utilities	Credit	Housing	Balance	
Gross	Loan	Clothing	Expenses	Saving	



Budget Bingo

Definitions

- Balance** – when it comes to budgeting, you want to achieve balance between your income and expenses
- Cash** – the bottom line of a budget indicates if you have adequate cash flow or making ends meet
- Clothing** – this is a budget line item that fulfills both a need and want; reduce costs by looking for best deals
- Credit** – good credit allows you to access loans + credit cards; your budget may include credit cards expenses
- Debt** – about 80% of Americans carry some form of debt, so debt repayment may be a part of your budget
- Deficit** – this is when you have a shortfall or not enough money to cover your expenses
- Entertainment** – this is a budget line item that is considered discretionary, meaning you decide how to spend
- Expenses** – these are the bills you pay and money you spend; they are subtracted from your income
- Food** – this is a line item that includes a need (groceries) and a want (eating out)
- Giving** – many people make room in their budget to allow for charitable giving to help others
- Gross** – this is the amount of money you earn before any taxes or payroll deductions are subtracted
- Housing** – an essential, this is typically the biggest expense in a household budget, often around 30%
- Income** – this is the money you make from any jobs, tips, bonuses, refunds, or prizes
- Insurance** – a policy protects you and your belongings (e.g. medical, dental, homeowners/rental, auto, life)
- Loan** – money you borrow to cover larger expenses, like buying a house or car, home improvement, etc.
- Margin** – a financial cushion that allows you space and time to make the best decisions
- Monthly** – this refers to the timeframe of our budget since we tend to view income and expenses every month
- Net** – this is the earnings that remain after taxes and payroll deductions are withdrawn; a.k.a. take-home pay
- Plan** – looking to the future, you will need a plan to balance your spending and saving to meet your goals
- Saving** – this is setting aside money today, instead of spending it, to achieve your future financial goals
- Spending** – exchanging money for products and services, spending is what we do on a daily basis
- Taxes** – whether sales, income, or property taxes, the money you pay to the government supports public works
- Transportation** – in a budget, you may have a line item to pay for a car, bike, or public transportation
- Utilities** – these are the bills you pay to have electricity, water, internet, and phone service